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Department of State TELEGRAM

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-24

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 OPW-01 IO-16
AID-28 RSR-01 /137 W

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zaberny DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

R 031058Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8152
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12276

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: GENERAL MINH'S CAMPAIGN

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1. OPPOSITION BUDDHIST SENATOR [redacted] CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS ING AUGUST 3 OTHER INDICATIONS FROM SUPPORTERS OF MINH THAT THE EXCLUSION OF KY FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY CAUSE GENERAL MINH IMMEDIATELY TO WITHDRAW.

2. [redacted] SAID MINH REMAINED INTENT ON HIS CANDIDACY, ALTHOUGH HE REPEATED THE STANDARD CAVEAT THAT THE GENERAL WOULD WITHDRAW IF HE THOUGHT THE RACE WAS TOO UNFAIR. [redacted] ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT KY'S EXCLUSION WOULD BE A MAJOR BLOW, AND HE [redacted] WOULD BE MEETING WITH COLLEAGUES TO RECOMMEND THAT MINH WITHDRAW UNLESS KY AGREES "WHOLEHEARTEDLY" TO SUPPORT MINH'S PRSIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

3. [redacted] INDICATED STRONG FRUSTRATION OVER THE SLOW PACE OF THE MINH CAMPAIGN, PARTICULARLY DEPLORING THE LACK OF DRIVE ON THE PART OF THE GENERAL'S ELECTION STAFF (NOTABLY BY

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DEPUTY HU VAN MINH, WHO IS MINH'S DIRECTOR FOR CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS RUNNING MATE). SAID MINH'S STAFF IS NOT ORGANIZING IN THE PROVINCES; INSTEAD IT IS DEPENDING HEAVILY ON THE AN QUANG CHURCH, WHICH CLAIMS FULLY SUPPORTS MINH BUT IS FAILING ALSO TO ORGANIZE AND WORK ENERGETICALLY IN HIS BEHALF.
BUNKER